(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal in respect of integrated forestry project Phase-III;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in clearing the Integrated Forestry Project Phase-III; and

(c) whether any efforts have been made to get the project cleared by the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Government of Gujarat had earlier sent a project proposal titled "Integrated Forestry Development Project", Phase III. Under the project, it is proposed to cover 230795 ha. area of land and distribute about 250 million seedlings to local people for planting on their land. The main objectives of the project are to restore the environmental balance, promote tree-planting, improve the fertility and the productivity of the forest areas, adoption of intensive soil conservation and water harvesting measures, use of alternate and non-conventional energy devices etc.

The project proposal was posed to the World Bank. The matter has been pursued with them and they have indicated that the State Government's project proposal has been included in the pipeline of projects that will be considered for provision of financial assistance.

Environmental Audit Reports

1071. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is compulsory for all industrial units in the country to submit environmental audit reports; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Every person carrying on an industry, operation or process requiring consent under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 or the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 or both or authorisation under the Hazardous (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 shall submit an environmental audit statement for the financial year ending the 31st March in the prescribed format to the concerned State Pollution Control Board on or before the 30th day of September every year, starting from 1993.

Reviewing Indian Forest Sector

1072. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank have prepared a paper titled 'Indian Forest Sector Review';

(b) if so, the details of the issues contained in the paper;

(c) the recommendations made thereon to tackle those issues; and

(d) the follow up action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The World Bank Forest Sector Review is intended to analyse the efforts made in the past, including through projects assisted by the World Bank, to develop the forest resources in India and to analyse the factors that can contribute to better management of the country's forest resources in the future. The Review brings out that for better management of the forests of the country, the main issues that require to be addressed include: (i) improving incentives for local participation and private efforts; (ii) improving the technological means to enhance productivity; (iii) increasing the effectiveness of the Forests Departments in the States; (iv) prioritising the areas that need to be protected and developed; and (v) identifying the issues requiring further analysis and resolution.

(d) The Review is intended to provide an overview of the key issues in forest management in India and also assist the World Bank in considering new forestry projects for provision of financial assistance. The Government organised two consultations in Bangalore and Delhi in the last week of April, 1993, for discussing the Review with the forest officials, non-official experts, voluntary agencies, etc.

Agreement between India and China on Technology Exchange

1073. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: